



## **2011-12 STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR THE ALGERIAN FULBRIGHT STUDENT (PRE-DOCTORAL) AWARDS**

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### ***Writing the Statement of Purpose***

- Be objective, yet self-revelatory, and write to tell about your experiences.
- Make sure your statement forms conclusions that explain the value and meaning of your experiences (i.e. what you have learned about your interests as they relate to your desired field of study, goals, and career plans).
- Limit the statement to two pages, unless instructed otherwise by the institution.
- If answering specific questions for the institutions rather than writing a statement of purpose make sure you read and understand each question before writing, then make sure your response answers the questions completely.
- Remember the statement of purpose provides important information about the applicant as a person as well as serving other functions, such as:
  - Helping the faculty to determine if the candidate's academic interests can be accommodated with their program
  - Ensuring that the program has a suitable faculty member to advise the student
  - Allow the faculty to assess the applicant's motivation, ability, preparation and accomplishments and compare them to others applying to the same field or sub field
  - Provide evidence of English language proficiency.
- The primary purpose of the statement from the applicant's point of view is to convince or persuade the admission committee applicants should not limit the statement to a recitation of achievements and should remember that the statement is not a resume or curriculum vitae.
- Remember that the statement of purpose will be read by highly trained academics who are professional in their field; the statement should not bore them by stating the obvious, but must demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of the field.
- Be specific about your experiences and goals, and make sure you do a spell and grammar check.

- Use the statement to your advantage. The statement should answer the question, “Why should the school admit you? What makes you so special?” Do not focus on why you want to go to that department in that institution.
- Make sure of your statement is to the point, why do you want to continue studying? What have you done in the past? What are you looking for in an international experience and from that institution? Remember to stay focused.
- Write the essay yourself, and make sure each essay is written specifically for each school’s questions. Generic responses will not help your application. The essay should also indicate your personality, and without an interview, the essay may be the only way to do this. Also, make sure the essay is succinct and addresses only the questions asked; do not rehash information contained elsewhere on the application, and attach unrelated information in addendum.
- Do not quote or paraphrase university publications; use your own words to write how you expect the graduate school experience to change, improve and/or enhance your career and life.
- Pay attention to the appearance of the essay; poor physical appearance (i.e. hand-written, or typed with a lot of white out) can lead to a negative impression of your essay.
- Know the field well enough to use the terminology without being simplistic.
- Make sure to include your goals and any special preparation or achievements that may make you more qualified than others.
- Address and explain honestly any problems or special conditions that led to problems that are not revealed elsewhere on the application.
- State why you selected the particular institution to apply to, being as specific as possible.

### ***Writing the Biographical Essay***

- This is an opportunity to describe yourself as a person: where you grew up and how. What were the influences that led you to where you are now in your life? Your interests and family situations?

### ***Writing about your Future Plans***

- Where do you envision yourself after you study in the U.S.? What are your career plans now that you have obtained a graduate degree in the U.S.? What role do you intend to play upon your return to Jordan.

*Revised: 22 April 2010*